

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

H-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 RSR-01 /177 W

----- 006970

R 061805 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5019

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, XA, EEC

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SUBJ: INITIAL EC COMMISSION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL IN PREPARATION
FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF YAOUNDE III

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1817 (B) EC BRUSSELS 1818 (C) EC A-145
(APRIL 3, 1973)

1. SUMMARY. SEVERAL KEY COMMUNITY FIGURES TELL US THAT, IN
CONSIDERING THE EC COMMISSION SUGGESTION FOR A " FREE TRADE
AREA" APPROACH FOR YAOUNDE III, WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND
THAT THE COMMUNITY' S INITIAL OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE IS TO GET
THE AFRICANS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE
COMMISSION IS INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZING THAT THERE ARE NO
PRECONDITIONS TO BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. NONE OF THE AFRICAN
COUNTRIES HAS TO AGREE TO ACCEPT THE SO- CALLED FREE TRADE
AREA CONCEPT AS A BASIS FOR BEGINNING THE TALKS IN AUGUST.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE EC COMMISSION' S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
ON THE YAOUNDE NEGOTIATIONS (REFERENCED MESSAGES), WE WISH TO CALL
ATTENTION TO ONE ASPECT WHICH DOES NOT COME THROUGH VERY CLEARLY
IN THE DOCUMENT ITSELF BUT WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED
TO US BY UK AMBASSADOR PALLISER AND SIR CHRISTOPHER DOAMES.
THIS IS A WIDESPREAD VIEW WITHIN THE COMMISSION -- AND
CERTAINLY THE UK VIEW -- THAT THE COMMUNITY' S OVERRIDING
INITIAL OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO GET ALL OF THE PRESENT YAOUNDE
COUNTRIES PLUS THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATES (WITH THE POSSIBLE
EXCEPTION OF NIGERIA) TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITHOUT ANY PRE-
CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE COMMUNITY. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION
DOCUMENT SETS FORTH A MODEL COVERING THE SO- CALLED " FREE TRADE"
CONCEPT, ARRANGEMENTS FOR STABILIZING COMMODITY RECEIPTS;
ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; ETC., THE BRITISH AND THE
COMMISSION WISH ABOVE ALL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ANGLOPHONE
COUNTRIES IN FACT BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT
PREPARED TO MAKE ADVANCE COMMITMENTS ABOUT THE BASIS ON WHICH
THEY WILL NEGOTIATE ASSOCIATION WITH THE ENLARG COMMUNITY:
E. G., " FREE TRADE AREA."

3. THE INTRODUCTORY SECTION OF THE EC COMMISSION PAPER DOES
CONTAIN A FEW PASSAGES THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED IN THE FOREGOING
SENSE. IT SAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE COMMUNITY FORESEES "... THE
OPENING OF A TRUE DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW PARTNERS (READ THE
ASSOCIABLES), SOMETHING WHICH OBVIOUSLY IMPLIES TAKING ACCOUNT
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ON THE POSITIONS AND PROPOSALS. THE WISH TO EXPRESS, HOWEVER THE

POINT COMES OUT CLEARLY IN SOAMES APRIL 5 SPEECH (EC BRUSSELS 1911)
IN WHICH HE EXPLICITLY SAID QUOTE NOW WE WANT AS MANY OF THEM AS
POSSIBLE TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE; WE POSE NO
PRECONDITIONS. WE WANT THEM TO COME AND TALK TO US, TO EXPLAIN
THEIR CONCERNS, AND TO HELP US TO FIND TOGETHER THE MOST
APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE

4. WHILE WE DID NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE THE SIGNIFICANCE ON THE
POINT ABOUT NO PRIOR CONDITIONS -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COMMISSION
PAPER PRESENTS ONLY ONE APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN- AFRICAN TRADE
RELATIONSHIP (" FREE TRADE AREAS") -- IT IS OBVIOUSLY BETTER FROM
THE STANDPOINT OF OUR OBJECTIVES THAT THIS BE THE CASE. THE
COMMISSION IS ALSO EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS SUGGESTION
FOR COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS TO STABILIZE THE ASSOCIATES'
EXPORT EARNINGS. COMMISSIONERS GUNDELACH AND
DENIAU HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ASPECT IS POTENTIALLY MORE
IMPORTANT TO THE AFRICANS THAN THE TARIFF ASPECTS. GUNDELACH IN
PARTICULAR HAS MADE THE POINT THAT EMPHASIS ON THE COMMODITY
QUESTION MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THAT IT TENDS TO DEEMPHASIZE TARIFF
PREFERENCES AS THE CENTRAL ELEMENT IN THE ASSOCIATES' TRADE
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

5. DUNCAN VISITED BRUSSELS APRIL 6 FOR TALKS WITH USEC AND LOCAL
OFFICIALS. HIS TALK AT THE EC COMMISSION CONFIRMED THE FORE-
GOING.
GREENWALD

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TAGS: ETRD, XA, EEC
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ACCRA
BONN
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DAKAR
DAR ES SALAAM

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